

Dear Mary,

Oregon PSR is working tirelessly with partners to secure strong resolutions from the City of Portland and Multnomah County that support a rapid and just transition to 100% renewable energy. We've been on a trajectory to secure the best policy in the nation. Given that 2016 was the warmest year on record and 2016 was the wettest winter on record, we know we have no time to spare if we are to avert climate catastrophe.

It's very important that we share a common understanding of what is **and** what is not "renewable energy." As the date for the June 1st hearings and votes on these 100% renewable resolutions fast approaches, industry has pushed back hard on decision makers who agree with us. They pushed so hard that just this week, one of the most critical clauses was deleted from proposed resolutions.

**The "disappeared" clause:**

**WHEREAS, "renewable energy" specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, non-residential biomass, incineration of municipal and medical waste, and any large-scale future hydroelectric development;**

We need your help to get it back!

Call Portland City Council:

- Mayor Ted Wheeler: 503-823-4120
- Commissioner Chloe Eudaly: 503-823-4682
- Commissioner Amanda Fritz: 503-823-3008

Call Multnomah County:

- Chair Deborah Kafoury: 503-988-3308
- Commissioner Sharon Meieran: 503-988-5220
- Commissioner Jessica Vega Pederson: 503-988-5217

**Sample Calling Script:**

*Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.*

*I live in (Portland/Multnomah County/district of the county) and am a (public health advocate/health professional/grandmother, etc). I support a rapid and just transition away from fossil fuels and towards a healthy climate. I support reinstatement of the following clause in the Renewable Energy Resolution:*

***"Renewable energy" specifically excludes energy derived from fossil fuels, nuclear, non-residential biomass, incineration of municipal and medical waste, and any large-scale future hydroelectric development;***

*I am counting on Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ to include that language and pass it.*

*Please DO NOT GIVE IN to pressure from industry and utility lobbyists to weaken or block this critical element of the Renewable Energy resolution. Thank you!*

We trust that, **with a huge number of positive calls coming from people like you**, our elected leaders will choose to reclaim and support this significant safeguard for health and climate justice. Together, we must counter a huge industry/utility push to exclude it.

If you can't call today, please call by noon on Monday, May 22nd. Thank you!

With determination and hope,

Regna Merritt  
Healthy Climate Program Director

**P.S.**

**Fossil Fuels: Not renewable**

**Nuclear Power: Not renewable**

There are moves afoot in the state legislature (SB 990) to rewrite Oregon law to allow new nuclear power facilities in Oregon, and to allow storage of nuclear waste generated at those sites. Even with "re-processing" or so-called "recycling," nuclear waste will be radioactive and dangerous for thousands of years.

**Biomass (non-residential): Not renewable**

We must not include biomass in definition of renewables. Inclusion will be used to incentivize and benefit industrial deforestation, which threatens our climate and waters. Do we want new clearcuts on the Mt. Hood National Forest justified as "renewable" biomass projects?

**Incineration of medical and municipal waste: Not renewable**

We must explicitly exclude from definition of renewables the incineration of municipal and medical waste. There are active efforts to increase the capacity of Covanta, a large incinerator in Marion County, and to ship Metro area waste there to be burned.

- Waste incinerators undermine efforts to fight climate change. Incineration emits nearly 25% more CO<sub>2</sub> per unit of electricity than coal
- Waste incinerators emit dangerous gases, particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, metals, dioxins, furans and 190 volatile organic compounds

**Any Large-Scale future hydroelectric development: Not renewable**

These large dams warm water, kill salmon, prevent return of salmon, harm Tribes and other communities which rely on salmon and other fish—for food and for the very foundation of their culture.

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